

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ranchers Exploration & Development Corporation

Small Fry Mine

ACT/037/022

Section 33 & 34, Township 29S., Range 24E.

Section 26, Township 29½S., Range 24E.

Section 3, Township 30S., Range 24E.

San Juan County, Utah

LOCATION:

Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation is presently operating an underground random room and pillar uranium mine. The surface facilities are located in Section 27, Township 29½ South, Range 24 East; and the related holdings include parts of Sections 33 and 34, Township 29 South, Range 24 East, Section 26, Township 29½ South, Range 24 East and Section 3, Township 30 South, Range 24 East, San Juan County, Utah. Consult the enclosed map for the mine site location.

The mine's surface facilities are situated on the side of a mesa, on the west side of Big Indian Valley.

SOILS AND GEOLOGY:

Due to the location of the mine, located on a steep mesa side, which is formed on the Lisbon Valley Articlinal, soils are shallow and rock outcrops are numerous. The mine is a reactivation of a previous operation that existed prior to the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act; because of this soils were not stockpiled. Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation will attempt to revegetate the spoil material and disturbed areas without spreading soil over the area.

The geology is simple and the structure is relatively flat. Ore is mined from the Triassic Chinle Formation.

HYDROLOGY:

There are no perennial streams adjacent to the mine; ephemeral washes drain the area.

The erosion potential of the natural undisturbed area is relatively high due to soil characteristics and sparse vegetation. Erosion potential of the mine area is extremely high. This is due to spoil material being dumped over the edge thereby lying at the angle of repose. The waste-rock particles are easily detached by rainfall, and the slopes are steep and long. These factors give rise to severe erosion and sediment production. However, there is no other feasible method of surface spoil disposal. The impacts of the severe erosion potential are slight as the sediment is redeposited as the slopes become less steep. Sediment probably does not reach a perennial watercourse.

The mine does not encounter significant groundwater, and does not discharge mine water to the surface.

ECOLOGY:

The mine site is located in a pinyon-juniper rangeland community that has been chained and planted to crested wheatgrass. The area is managed for livestock production and deer habitat.

STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES:

There are no permanent structures located on the surface. Two adits provide access to the underground workings. Several additional shallow entries also exist that are used for storage and work space.

Like most uranium mines in the area, waste rock was dumped at the angle of repose from the portal. A level pad approximately 475 feet by 225 feet has been constructed from waste rock in this manner.

MINING AND RECLAMATION:

Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation has committed to the items listed below:

During Operations:

1. Access will be via existing roads.
2. Only pre-existing waste dumps will be utilized.
3. Mining will be conducted in a safe, orderly and workmanlike manner.

After Operations:

1. Shafts, tunnels and holes will be sealed to prevent unauthorized or accidental entry. Warning signs will be posted if there appears to be a likelihood of public access.
2. Trash and debris will be adequately disposed of.
3. Waste will be contoured to the surrounding terrain.
4. Disturbed areas will be harrowed and broadcast seeded with crested wheatgrass. Alternative grasses will be considered. Reseeding will be done if necessary.

IMPACTS:

The mine facilities were in existence prior to the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act. The Reclamation Plan will eliminate safety hazards and reduce environmental impacts.

SURETY ESTIMATE:

Reclamation surety for this operation is estimated to be \$13,848.00, which includes 5% inflation for the 5 year proposed mine life.

The surety estimate includes the following work:

- a. Sealing of 2 portals,
- b. Removal of structures and equipment,
- c. Removal of trash and debris,
- d. Regrading of the fill pad and roads,
- e. Harrowing and seeding,
- f. Supervisory labor,
- g. Removal of hazardous substances,
- h. Reseeding if necessary,
- i. Inflation.

A copy of the surety estimate is enclosed.

APPLICATION HISTORY:

June 20, 1977	Notice of Intent received.
June 24, 1977	Division reply, request Mining & Reclamation Plan.
October 31, 1977	Mining and Reclamation Plan received.
November 3, 1977	Map requested by Division.
November 9, 1977	Division inspection.
November 23, 1977	Reply that a map will be prepared.
December 7, 1977	Second Division inspection.

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APPLICATION HISTORY (CONT):

April 17, 1978	Map received.
June 15, 1978	Division request filing of MR-8 form, Commitment to M-10 Rules.
September 1, 1978	Attorney for company reply that the company feels the filing of the MR-8 Form is un- necessary and redundant.
September 8, 1978	Division reply.
July 6, 1979	Meeting with company attorney.
July 20, 1979	Filing of narrative concerning M-10 Rule.